

## **REFERENCE #XMVE02**

### **Statement of Work for Student Services Contract Western Ecology Division - Risk Characterization Branch Corvallis, OR**

#### **1. Project Description**

The Western Ecology Division (WED) of the National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory. WED's mission is 1) to provide EPA with national scientific leadership for terrestrial and regional-scale ecology, and 2) to develop the scientific basis for assessing the condition and response of ecological resources of the western United States and the Pacific Coast. The Risk Characterization Branch of WED is involved in a number of projects investigating anthropogenic stress on organisms and ecosystems. The student contractor will assist in the development of test procedures for the protection of plants native to the Willamette Valley. The work is in support of the US EPA Office of Pesticide Programs which is responsible for the registration of pesticides. Previously, the effects of pesticides on native plants have not been included in the registration process.

#### **2. Description of Student Services**

The student will work with a multi-disciplinary team investigating the effects of off target movement of pesticides on plants and plant communities. The student will be responsible for the development of cultural techniques, both field and greenhouse, necessary for the growing of selected native plants of the Willamette Valley. Selection criteria include ecological significance (i.e., dominant), threatened and endangered species, and important wildlife species. The student will assist in the performance of standard toxicology tests on selected native species and agronomic species. The student will assist in the compilation and summarization of experimental data and in the writing of scientific manuscripts related to this work..

The student will perform duties, as requested, according to specifications and instructions provided by the mentor. Where appropriate, the student will maintain careful and accurate records in designated laboratory notebooks. These notebooks and all other data produced under this order will be the property of the Environmental Protection Agency.

#### **3. Required Expertise, Skills, Education an/or Experience**

The student must have completed a B.S. degree in biology, botany, ecology, environmental science, horticulture or related field and be enrolled as a graduate student in an accredited college/university. The preferred student will have training and/or experience in general laboratory/greenhouse techniques, field studies in agriculture, or environmental studies. The student must know basic laboratory safety requirements and will be given additional safety training at WED.

#### **4. Required Background Investigation and Suitability Determination:**

Students who perform under contract for EPA are required to undergo a background check and check of FBI fingerprint files and a suitability determination by the Environmental Protection Agency. Students awarded a contract will have to complete a Standard Form 85 (SF-85) Questionnaire for Non-Sensitive Positions and SF-87 fingerprint charts. All completed forms will be submitted to the contract specialist (Matt Ake, US EPA RTP Procurement Operation Division (E-105-02) Research Triangle Park, NC 27711) at least 14 days prior to reporting to work. Fingerprints will either be taken at WED or students will be notified to have their fingerprints taken at their local police department. If a background check reveals information to indicate the student represents a risk to the interests of EPA and the national security, the contract will be terminated.

#### **5. Description of Working Conditions:**

Work will be performed in laboratory/greenhouses and on research farms. Students will be required to wear safety apparel and to closely observe safety requirements. Contractors may be required to travel overnight to perform work related duties as part of contractor performance.

6. Compensation:

The rate of compensation for this position is \$13.24 per hour which includes the cost of self-employment taxes for social security and Medicare. The initial contract will be for one year with an option for an additional 12 months.

7. Taxes:

The student is responsible for paying all Federal, State, and local income taxes required as a result of income received under this order.